Level 1 Lesson 15

HOW TO RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT

By Don Krow

We're going to talk today about how to receive the Holy Spirit. Acts 10:1 says, *"There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of the band called the Italian band."* This was a military rank, probably a captain over a regiment. Verse 2 continues, *"A devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God alway."* He was righteous, did things that were right, feared God, gave much money to people in need, and the Bible says he prayed to God always. But we are going to find out, and it will be amazing, that even though he did things right, even though he feared God, and had a prayer life, he didn't have a personal relationship with God though Jesus Christ.

It says in verses 3-6, *"He saw in a vision evidently about the ninth hour of the day* [about three o'clock in the afternoon] *an angel of God coming in to him, and saying unto him, Cornelius. And when he looked on him, he was afraid, and said, What is it, Lord? And he said unto him, Thy prayers and thine alms* [giving] *are come up for a memorial before God. And now send men to Joppa, and call for one Simon whose surname is Peter: He lodgeth with one Simon a tanner, whose house is by the sea side: he shall tell thee what thou oughtest to do"* (brackets mine).

This man, although he was God-fearing, righteous as far as doing things that were right, and had a prayer life before God, was sent an angel who told him to send for Simon Peter who would tell him what he must do. We see in Acts 10:43 exactly what Peter was instructed to tell him: *"To give him all the prophets witness, that through his name* [through the name of the Lord Jesus] *whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins"* (brackets mine). Isn't this amazing? This man who had all these things to his credit didn't have a personal relationship with God through the person of Jesus Christ. God said, "The things you're doing are great, they're wonderful, and they are a memorial before me, but I tell you what I'm going to do. I've sent an angel down to tell you to send for a man named Peter, and he will tell you what you must do." In Acts 10:43, when Peter went to Cornelius' house, he said, *"Whosoever believeth in him* [the Lord Jesus Christ] *shall receive the remission of sins"* (brackets mine).

Now look what happened here. *"While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word"* (Acts 10:44). Cornelius was receiving as he heard of faith in Christ, and he put his faith in Christ for the remission of his sins. As soon as he did, the Holy Spirit fell upon him and all those that were in that house. It says in verse 45, *"And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost."* How did they know that? *"For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God"* (verse 46).

Every time the Holy Spirit falls on an individual in the New Testament, a gift of the Holy Spirit manifests and gives evidence that they have received the infilling of the Spirit. In the New Testament, they usually spoke in tongues or prophesied.

I got down on my knees one evening in a field in Dallas, Texas, and said, "God, I don't know about all this speaking in tongues and the baptism in the Holy Spirit that people are talking about, but if there's a way I can praise you, a way I can magnify you, a way I can go beyond my human English language, I want it. I started worshiping God, and as I did, the Holy Spirit gave me a language, an utterance that I hadn't known or learned. The Bible says in Acts 2:4, *"And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance."* Who did the speaking? They did. Who gave the utterance? The Holy Spirit.

Luke 11:13 says, *"If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?"* All you have to do right now is ask, believe that you receive, yield yourself to God, begin to worship the Lord, and He will give you an utterance to worship and praise Him in a language you have never learned.

Discipleship Questions

1. Describe some of the terms that the Bible uses for salvation.

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2. Read Acts 11:15. How does this verse describe the experience of the baptism with the Holy Spirit?

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3. Jesus' disciples received the Holy Spirit (John 20:22), but a few days later were actually baptized with the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1-4). Look at and compare these facts (John 20:22 and Acts 2:1-4).

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4. Read Acts 1:8. What is the purpose of the baptism with the Holy Spirit?

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5. Read Acts 2:38-39 and 1 Corinthians 1:7. Is the baptism with the Holy Spirit for us today? _____

6. Read Luke 11:13. If you have not received the baptism with the Holy Spirit, what should you now do? _____

7. Read Acts 2:4. Will you ask, receive, speak, and worship God in the prayer language that God gives you? _____

Scriptures to Use with Questions

John 3:3 – *"Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."*

Acts 3:19 – *"Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord."*

Mark 16:16 – *"He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."*

Colossians 2:13 – *"And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses."*

Romans 8:9 – *"But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his."*

Matthew 25:46 – *"And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal."*

Acts 11:15 – *"And as I began to speak, the Holy Ghost fell on them, as on us at the beginning."*

John 20:22 – *"And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost."*

Acts 2:1-4 – "[1] *And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.* [2] *And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.* [3] *And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.* [4] *And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance."*

Acts 1:8 – *"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."*

Acts 2:38-39 – "[38] *Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.* [39] *For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call."*

1 Corinthians 1:7 – *"So that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."*

Luke 11:13 – *"If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?"*

Acts 2:4 – *"And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance."*

Answer Key

1. Describe some of the terms that the Bible uses for salvation. **Being born again (John 3:3), conversion (Acts 3:19), believing and being baptized (Mark 16:16), having been forgiven (Col. 2:13), having received the Spirit of Christ (Rom. 8:9), and eternal life (Matt. 25:46).**

2. Read Acts 11:15. How does this verse describe the experience of the baptism with the Holy Spirit? **As the Holy Spirit falling on someone.**

3. Jesus' disciples received the Holy Spirit (John 20:22), but a few days later were actually baptized with the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1-4). Look at and compare these facts (John 20:22 and Acts 2:1-4). **In John 20:22, the disciples received the Holy Spirit. In Acts 2:1-4, the very same disciples were then filled with the Holy Spirit (which is an inward and outward immersion). See Acts 1:8.**

4. Read Acts 1:8. What is the purpose of the baptism with the Holy Spirit? **To empower for service (or witness).**

5. Read Acts 2:38-39 and 1 Corinthians 1:7. Is the baptism with the Holy Spirit for us today? **Yes. The gifts of the Holy Spirit will cease at the second coming of Christ, but not until then.**

6. Read Luke 11:13. If you have not received the baptism with the Holy Spirit, what should you now do? **Ask for it.**

7. Read Acts 2:4. Will you ask, receive, speak and worship God in the prayer language that God gives you? **Yes, I will speak, but the Holy Spirit will give me the utterance (the language).**

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